CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method for improving speech recognition performance, the method comprising:
   a) determining initial context information associated with an input speech stream, the initial context information including at least one of a user, personal characteristics of the user and a communication channel characteristics;
   b) identifying at least one appropriate default speech model for the input speech stream;
   c) mapping the initial context information to the at least one appropriate default speech model;
   d) dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the initial context information; and
   e) if the new speech model has a better fit to the initial context information, associating the new speech model with the input speech stream as a new default model.

2. (Canceled) Please cancel without prejudice.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the personal characteristics include at least one from the group comprised of: gender, native language, age, ethnicity, and home region.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the communication channel characteristics include at least one from the group comprised of: type of connection, model of phone, network identifiers, network characteristics and background noise level.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises associating at least one alternative model with the input speech stream.

8. (Currently amended) A method for dynamically selecting a speech model, the method comprising:
   a) receiving a call from a user;
   b) determining characteristics of a communications channel through which the call is received;
   c) identifying at least one appropriate default speech model for the call based upon the characteristics of the channel;
   d) selecting the at least one appropriate default speech model;
   e) configuring a speech recognizer to use the selected at least one appropriate default speech model;
   f) dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the communications channel; and
   g) if the new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the communications channel~~initial context information~~, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default speech model and configuring the speech recognizer to use the new default speech model.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises overriding the selected at least one appropriate default speech model by dynamically identifying whether the new default speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the communications channel based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein receiving a call from a user further comprises determining information identifying the user.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises overriding the selected at least one appropriate default speech model by dynamically identifying whether a new default speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristic.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) An article including instructions that, when executed, result in:
    a) reception of a call from a user;
    b) determination of characteristics of a communications channel through which the call is received;
    c) identification of at least one appropriate default speech model for the call;
    d) selection of the at least one appropriate default speech model based upon the communication channel characteristics;
    e) configuring a speech recognizer to use the selected at least one appropriate default speech model;
    f) dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the channel; and
    g) if the new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the communications channel~~initial context information~~, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default speech model and configuring the speech recognizer to use the new default speech model.

16. (Previously presented) The article of claim 15, wherein the article includes further instructions that, when executed, result in determination of information identifying the user.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the article includes further instructions that, when executed, overrides the selected at least one appropriate default speech model by dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user and the communications channel based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

19. (Currently amended) A method for dynamically selecting a speech model, the method comprising:
    a) receiving a call from a user;
    b) identifying the user;
    c) accessing user information;
    d) identifying at least one appropriate default speech model for the call;
    e) selecting the at least one appropriate default speech model based upon characteristics of the user determined from the user information;
    f) configuring a speech recognizer to use the selected at least one appropriate default speech model;
    g) dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user; and
    h) if the new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user~~initial context information~~, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default model and configuring the speech recognizer to use the new default model.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises determining characteristics of a communications channel through which the call is received.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises overriding the selected at least one appropriate default speech model based upon by dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user and the communications channel based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) An article including instructions that, when executed, result in:
a) reception of a call from a user;
b) identification of the user;
c) access of user information;
d) identification of at least one appropriate default speech model for the user call;
e) selection of the at least one appropriate default speech model based upon characteristics of the user determined from the user information;
f) configuration of a speech recognizer to use the selected at least one appropriate default speech model;
g) dynamic identification of whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user, and if the new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user~~initial context information~~, association of the new speech model with the call as a new default model; and

h) a speech recognizer to use the selected default model.

26. (Previously presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the article further includes instructions that, when executed, result in determination of characteristics of a communications channel through which the call is received.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The article of claim 26, wherein the article further includes instructions that, when executed, result in overriding the selected at least one appropriate default speech model based upon by dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user and the communications channel based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

29. (Currently amended) A speech recognition system, comprising:

a) at least two speech models;

b) a control module operable to:

i) determine initial context information about a call the initial context information including at least one of a user, personal characteristics of the user and a communication channel characteristics;

ii) identify at least one appropriate default speech model from the at least two speech models;

iii) select the at least one appropriate default speech model based on the initial context information; and

iv) configure a speech recognizer to use the selected at least one appropriate default speech model;

v) dynamically identify whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the initial context information; and

vi) if the new speech model has a better fit to the initial context information, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default speech model; and

c) a recognition engine operable to:

i) receive an input speech stream;

ii) receive information from the control module about an appropriate speech model to use;

iii) convert an input speech stream to an output text stream using the appropriate speech model.

30. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 30 without prejudice.